



Sermon Discussion Guide

A Good Confession

God and Government

Warm-Up Questions:

- Do you think Seven Rivers Church is a thermometer or a thermostat? Do we react to the culture around us, or influence and change it?
- Would people weep if Seven Rivers Church disappeared from this community?

Read Romans 13:1-7

I. The **Authority of The State** (Romans 13:1-2)

- Read Romans 9:17, 13:1, John 9:17, and WCF 23.1. Where does government derive its authority from?
- Ray said that "your attitude towards authority is your attitude towards God." Generally speaking, what is your attitude towards authority? Do you find this statement challenging or convicting?
- Can you think of examples from your own life where you have had to disobey authority in order to obey God?

II. The **"Ministry" of the State** (Romans 13:3-4)

- According to Romans 13 and 2 Peter 13-14, what is the purpose of government?
- What is the proper relationship between the church and the state? How should they relate to one another? How should they **not** relate?

III. The **Duty Owed to the State** (Romans 13:6-7)

- Read 1 Timothy 2:1-3 and 1 Peter 2:17. What's so surprising about these verses, given the situation of the original audience? How do these verses challenge you?
- Are you more passionate about Jesus, or America? How might your political involvement change if you identify as a Christian before an American?

Going Deeper:

Read and discuss chapter 23 of The Westminster Confession, along with some of the Scripture proofs. Then, as a group:

- Spend time summarizing/re-wording the question and answer
- Discuss how the Scripture proofs support the answer

Action Item:

Spend some time as a group praying for those in authority over us, that they would govern with righteousness and integrity. Confess and repent of your failure to honor those God has placed in authority over us.

